

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM CENTENNIAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4442, the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act. H.R. 4442 would establish a commission to promote awareness of the National Wildlife Refuge System among the American public as the System celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2003.

For many years, my family and I have enjoyed hiking at the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge near my home in Seymour, Indiana. And now a major new refuge has been established on Army property at the former Jefferson Proving Ground.

Just last weekend, I attended the dedication of the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge at the former military facility. The new refuge encompasses more than 50,000 acres of grasslands, woodlands and forests and is home to white-tailed deer, wild turkey, river otters and coyotes. The refuge also provides managed habitat for 40 species of fish, 120 species of breeding birds, and the federally endangered Indiana bat. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has identified 46 rare species of plants on the site.

Mr. Speaker, the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge is the latest addition to more than 500 national wildlife refuges managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I urge all Americans to come and enjoy the beauty and recreation opportunities at Big Oaks. And while they are in the area, they should also spend some time at the Muscatatuck refuge.

These and many other refuges are often the best kept secrets in town. H.R. 4442 rightly commemorates the centennial of the refuge system and will help make Americans more aware of the tremendous assets available to them through the National Wildlife Refuge System.

SUPPORT OF THE WINDOWS AND GLAZING PROGRAM

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the windows and glazing program, which is funded through the Building Technology Category. This program provides funding for a promising new technology with enormous energy saving potential for the commercial windows market. This program would allow the further development of plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD) techniques for electrochromic technologies. This technology provides a flexible means of controlling the amount of heat and light that pass through a glass surface providing significant energy conservation opportunities. The Department of Energy estimates that placing this technology on all commercial building windows in the United States would produce yearly energy savings equivalent to the

amount of oil that passes through the Alaskan pipeline each year.

In recognition of the importance of this technology, the State of Florida has provided \$1.6 million toward the advancement of this program, and has allocated an additional \$720,000 in the State of Florida Fiscal Year 2001 budget. The program is being undertaken in conjunction with the University of South Florida and utilizes the expertise and patented technology of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Colorado. The State of Florida's program has made significant progress toward making electrochromic windows a reality. This program is an excellent example of successful technology transfer from a national laboratory as well as an example of a successful public/private relationship.

The Florida program is consistent with industry priorities and goals of the Department of Energy's windows program. I believe this program only helps strengthen our conservation programs. I encourage my colleagues to support this important program.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY WORLD CONGRESS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the 20th Anniversary World Congress, which is organized by the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU), under the auspices of the Czech and Slovak Embassies and in close cooperation with American University, scheduled for August 9–13, 2000, in Washington, D.C.

The central theme for this World Congress is: "Civil Society and Democracy into the New Millennium." It will feature speakers from both sides of the Atlantic and it promises to be the pivotal event of the year 2000 for those interested in things Czech or Slovak.

The three day program at American University will comprise numerous discussion panels and symposia, covering practically every aspect of human endeavor from the arts and humanities to social and behavioral sciences, and science and technology.

I am indeed proud to salute the efforts of the organizers and particularly would like to commend the efforts of Mr. Eugene L. Krizek, a resident of my congressional district, for his generous and untiring efforts on behalf of this project.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RUTH FIRSCHER

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I request that the Congress reflect on the memory of Ruth Firschein, of Palo Alto, California, who passed away this week.

Known by her family simply as "Grandma Ruth," Ruth spanned nearly a century during her remarkable life.

Born in a village in Eastern Europe, Ruth immigrated to the United States as a young woman. She followed the classic path of many immigrants, landing in New York City, working hard to make a living in a new country, marrying, raising children, and assisting with the operation of a small family printing business, Firschein Press.

Although circumstances did not permit her to complete more than a grade school education, she took her children to the New York City Public Library, and taught them that books and knowledge are the key to understanding and success. The Firschein apartment was filled with books and artwork, radios and science experiments.

People who met Ruth were impressed by her intelligence, wit, charm, and leadership qualities. She served as an officer in a number of synagogue and charitable groups, freely giving of her time, and expressing her views enthusiastically, without hesitation or reservation.

Ruth witnessed much during her long life. She liked to tell about the time cossacks occupied her village and had a saber fight in the kitchen of her family's home. One of the swords accidentally struck her. Years later, she would point to the small scar and tell of the soldiers' remorse. One of them told her he had a little girl just like her at home.

Ruth was a link between the past and the present. She witnessed the birth of airplanes, televisions, computers and rockets. She watched as new waves of immigrants came to this country, retracing her life and her steps. In her later years, she would sit with new Russian immigrants, listening to their stories, and trading her own. She was a natural storyteller, and we are fortunate that a number of her stories have been recorded on tape.

Ruth leaves behind three children and several grandchildren. They remember her legacy of love for the world. She will be missed.

HONORING THE ARRIVAL OF THE "AMISTAD" TO ITS HOME PORT OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker: It is with great pride that I rise today to join the thousands gathered in New Haven, Connecticut to welcome the *Amistad* to its home port, commemorating the story of Sengbe Pieh and the Mendians kidnaped from what is now Sierra Leone, Africa. The *Amistad* replica will bring to life the legendary events of 1839 so that generations of children and adults will understand and share the slaves' courageous rebellion aboard ship, their difficult imprisonment, and their final vindication by the United States Supreme Court.

At a time of great division in our society, many New Haven residents played a key role in aiding Sengbe Pieh and the Mendians in what became a two-year legal and political battle for their freedom. Pastor Simeon Jocelyn, Lewis Tappan, and the congregations of the United Church on the Green and Dixwell United Church of Christ established the *Amistad* Committee whose mission was to provide for the Mendians' basic needs. They